

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 09789 060054Z

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ACTION SS-30

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2070

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, CVIS, CH

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO PRC BY FSO SHERROD MCCALL

REF: A) STATE 191322; B) PEKING 1497

1. WE, OF COURSE, ARE VERY PLEASED THAT MCCALL VISAS HAVE BEEN ISSUED. THIS IS FIRST VISA FOR CONSULTATION AT USLO BY SUBSTANTIVE OFFICER FROM CONGEN SINCE JAY TAYLOR RECEIVED VISA IN NOVEMBER 1973. NEWLY ESTABLISHED PRC WILLINGNESS TO GRANT THIS KIND OF VISA WILL BE EXTREMELY VALUABLE FOR THE WORK OF THIS POST.

2. LEAVING ASIDE VISAS FOR CONGEN OFFICERS TO ATTEND CANTON FAIR AS COMPLETELY SEPARATE MATTER, WE NOW FACE THE QUESTION OF WHO SHOULD BE THE NEXT OF CONGEN'S SUBSTANTIVE OFFICERS TO VISIT PEKING AFTER MCCALL. IN THIS REGARD, WE ARE BEGINNING TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE APPROPRIATENESS OF RICHARD HOWARTH GOING UP TO PEKING ON A PRIVATE VISIT UNTIL PATTERN OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL IS WELL ESTABLISHED. INSTEAD WE BELIEVE THE NEXT SUBSTANTIVE OFFICER VISIT SHOULD BE BY AGRICULTURAL OFFICER HAROLD C. CHAMPEAU. CHAMPEAU'S APPLICATION HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING FOR SOME TIME AND WE BELIEVE THAT IN

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PAGE 02 HONG K 09789 060054Z

THE IMPORTANT INTERESTS OF INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

AND OF STRENGTHENING OUR REPORTING IN A VITAL AREA IT SHOULD BE REACTIVATED.

3. CONSEQUENTLY WE ARE PREPARED TO HOLD HOWARTH TRIP IN ABEYANCE AND, ALLOWING FOR THE REASONABLE INTERVAL BETWEEN VISITS SUGGESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT, WE RECOMMEND THAT CHAMPEAU'S VISA REQUEST BE RESUBMITTED IN WASHINGTON TO PRCLO.

4. PRECISE DETAILS OF THE CHAMPEAU VISIT COULD OF COURSE BE WORKED OUT IN A SUBSEQUENT EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES. WE AGREE THAT IT SHOULD INVOLVE THE GENERAL PROGRAM RECOMMENDED BY USLO IN ITS NOVEMBER 1973 MESSAGE ON THE SUBJECT OF HIS POSSIBLE VISIT. IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT THE VISIT FOLLOW AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE ON THE HEELS OF THE MCCALL VISIT IF CHAMPEAU IS TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE SOME WORTHWHILE PORTION OF HARVEST ACTIVITIES IN THE PRC.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE USLO'S ADVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A CHAMPEAU VISIT AND THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY REACTION SO THAT THE VISA PROCESS COULD BE STARTED WITHOUT DELAY.
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